

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH AND
SUPERVISOR DON KNABE

MARCH 6, 2012

The State's Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) is responsible for housing high risk juvenile offenders who have been convicted of sex offenses as well as serious or violent crimes. This population requires intensive supervision and costly treatment services and has failed all available local remedies. Over the course of the past decade, the population of DJJ has incrementally declined as more and more youth were shifted to counties for detention in Probation camps. Through those efforts, DJJ's population has dropped to approximately 1,200 in recent years, leaving only the worst of the worst offenders in its custody.

The Governor's budget proposes to end all in-take of new juvenile offenders to the DJJ effective January 1, 2013. All juvenile offenders committed to DJJ prior to January 1, 2013 will continue to serve their commitment at one of the DJJ facilities which will gradually close as populations drop. Stopping in-take of this high risk population was contemplated in the initial planning stages of Public Safety Realignment but was abandoned.

This proposal poses grave concerns to counties statewide because counties do not have the appropriate facilities or treatment programs to adequately supervise and treat this population. Consequently, these offenders will likely end up getting sentenced to state prison. This presents a lose-lose situation for the counties and the juvenile offenders which must be aggressively opposed by all 58 counties.

MOTION

MOLINA _____

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

KNABE _____

ANTONOVICH _____

YAROSLAVSKY _____

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Send a five-signature letter to the Governor and Legislature expressing strong opposition to the Governor's budget proposal to end all in-take of new juvenile offenders to the Division of Juvenile Justice effective January 1, 2013 and the county's willingness to work with the state on exploring other alternatives; and,
2. Send a five-signature letter to California State Association of Counties urging them to send a similar letter to the Governor and State Legislature.

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MDA:apg